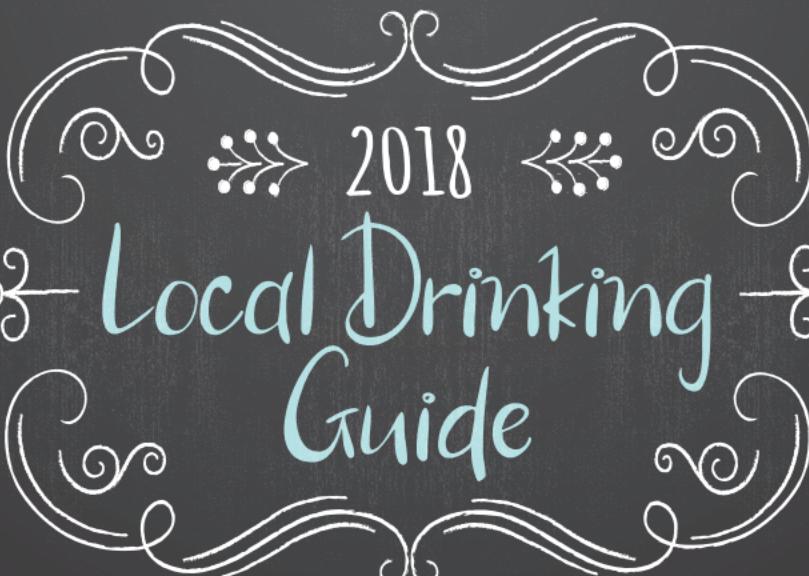




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MINNESOTA'S MOST HOP-CRAZED BREWERY IS HOSTING AN 'IPA INVITATIONAL'

By Jerard Fagerberg

Beer industry critics have been calling the IPA a fad for more than a decade now. With every new iteration, they've forecasted the coming extinction of the style, and through it all, the breweries who built their reputation on IBUs have flourished.

In outstate Minnesota, no brewery has prospered more off its IPAs than Lupulin Brewing. The 2018 City Pages Best Suburban Brewery winners pour a full gamut of frothy, wonderful IPAs that have made their Big Lake taproom a must-visit for inbound hopheads. If you've ever had a Hooey, you know you've had one of the best IPAs the state has ever produced. But now, Lupulin's putting their hype to the test by inviting the top brewers to strut their stuff in the first ever Lupulin IPA Invitational.

The invitational, which will take place on August 4 at ERX Motor Park in Elk River, will feature tongue-scraping specialty beers from IPA luminaries both local and international. The likes of Surly (makers of Furious), Barrel Theory (makers of Rain Drops), BlackStack (makers of Local 755), Fair State (makers of Mirror Universe), and Fargo's Drekker will compete in a field of 22 breweries from across 10 states.



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"If you're a hops fan, this is the ultimate sampling event," Lupulin said in a press release promoting the event. "We've challenged brewers to create their most innovative, flavorful, and original single, double, and triple IPAs."

Though the event is largely an excuse to sample world-class potent beer in a field, Lupulin will be donating a portion of ticket sales to Three Rivers Community Foundation, which provides grants and scholarships for the Elk River school district.

Tickets are on sale now, but numbers are limited, and the brewery claims they're likely to sell out. General admission starts at \$50, but there's a \$100 VIP option for those who need air conditioning and Wi-Fi to enhance their already indulgent afternoon.

Here's the full list of participating breweries:

- Ale Asylum (Wisc.)
- Barrel Theory (Minn.)
- Bent Paddle (Minn.)
- BlackStack (Minn.)
- Brewing Projekt (Wisc.)
- Dangerous Man (Minn.)
- Drekker (N.D.)
- Fair State Brewing Cooperative (Minn.)
- Finnegans (Minn.)
- Insight (Minn.)
- Junkyard (Minn.)
- Listermann (Ohio)
- Mikkeller (Calif.)
- Modist (Minn.)
- Odd13 (Colo.)
- Pipeworks (Ill.)
- Surly Brewing (Minn.)
- Tailgate (Tenn.)
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TAKE A PEEK INSIDE KIM BARTMANN'S LONG-AWAITED BUBBLY BAR TRAPEZE, NOW OPEN IN UPTOWN

By Emily Cassel

The pretty, pint-sized space seats just 22, but there's a standing bar and a few stools at the front.

A floral mural spans the wall and was painted by Jennifer Davis, who just completed another piece at Hai Hai in Northeast (though Bartmann tells us *this* one was actually her first for a restaurant).

Food-wise, the menu is correspondingly tiny, with just a few snackable, playful plates of meat and cheese and seafood and veggies—like the Spring Crudites—from Barbette chef Jessica Cak. (No crossover between the two menus, though—sorry, Barbette frites faithful.)

But you didn't come here to eat, did you?

Trapeze boasts a whopping 85 bottles of sparkling wine curated by Jill Mott, and a lot of them are things you won't find in the Twin Cities outside of this teeny little Uptown room. You can get more than a few super-fun, jumbo-sized, large-format bottles here, something else that's increasingly tough to track down on wine lists. And there are also



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TIME TO LET
MINNESOTANS BUY
BEER, WINE, AND
(SOME) LIQUOR AT
GROCERY STORES?

By Mike Mullen

We Americans are a divided people.

Especially when it comes to who gets to buy booze at grocery stores, convenience stores, and gas stations.

Such laws are set state-by-state, leading to a patchwork regulatory scheme that swings wildly as one crosses borders. Consider Minnesota's neighbor states: North Dakota does not allow alcohol sales at grocery stores; South Dakota and Iowa do; Wisconsin leaves it up to local governments to decide. The majority of states have legal grocery store liquor sales of some kind.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19 ▶

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With the curious, fabulous exception of Sentyrz Market in northeast Minneapolis, Minnesota allows for the sale of 3.2 beer (insert Monty Python joke), and nothing else. That might be about to change.

Well, someday. Maybe.

A bill that would allow beer, wine, and “Minnesota-distilled spirits” to be sold at “food retailer” stores in Minnesota recently got an “informational hearing”, as flagged by Minnesota Public Radio’s Briana Bierschbach. The “informational” nature means shoppers shouldn’t get their hopes up this year. Committee deadlines passed long ago, and Minnesota’s (already highly productive) 2018 legislative session is now over.

But next year? Sure, yeah. Maybe.

The bill takes an inclusive view of the term “food retailer,” which it says means “large and midscale establishments such as supermarkets and grocery stores, but may also include small-scale establishments such as corner stores or convenience stores.”

A qualifying store would sell bread and baked goods, meat and fish, produce, dairy products, plus “dried, canned and other packaged groceries.” The repeated use of the word “and” instead of “or” implies a corner store would have to have at least some of each of those items to meet the standard.

The bill’s two chief authors are Republicans—Rep. Jim Nash (R-Waconia) and Sen. Karin Houley (R-St. Marys Point), author and presumptive GOP U.S. Senate candidate—though the Senate version has a couple Democratic co-authors.

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The Happy Gnome logo, featuring a silhouette of a gnome in a circle, is on the left. To the right, the text "HAPPY HOUR AND A GOOD PATIO MAKES A HAPPY GNOME" is displayed over a background of bubbles.



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When, in 2016, Minnesota finally dropped its prohibition on Sunday sales at liquor stores, support and opposition did not fall along party lines, and made for some interesting bipartisan bedfellows.

Grocery store sales are hardly a new debate in Minnesota—in 2001, a bill to allow wine sales had gained some momentum before its author suddenly dropped the issue—but the idea hasn't received serious consideration in years. The hearing looks like it might next year.

One recent case study occurred in Colorado, where a law signed in 2016 will see beer hitting grocery store shelves in 2019; liquor stores there will maintain a monopoly on wine and hard liquor until 2037.

In analyzing that proposal, an economist at the University of Denver said the move would be a boon to Colorado's craft brewery industry, with annual sales at grocery stores projected to exceed \$125 million.

That economist also cast doubt on the perceived threat to liquor stores, noting that they “prosper close to grocery stores in other states” that allow liquor sales. He points to the example of Seattle, where liquor store sales per capita were actually higher than in Denver, despite consumers having the grocery store option.

If that math holds up here, letting Minnesotans purchase liquor at Target, Costco, or the co-op won't mean we simply take our booze business elsewhere. It might mean we buy more.

Or maybe it won't matter. One recent review ranked states by



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An advertisement for Spring Grove Soda. At the top, it says "Welcome to the Sweet Taste of Childhood". Below that is a decorative oval containing four bottles of soda in different colors: red, dark brown, orange, and black. The text "Guaranteed fountain of Youth!" is followed by "Try all of our 9 Great Flavors!". At the bottom, it says "Spring Grove Pop has been refreshing palates for over 100 years!" and "Order Online! 215 2nd Ave NW • Spring Grove, MN 55974 www.springgrovesoda.com".

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alcohol-related problems. Minnesota came in 10th. Ranking second-worst was Wisconsin, which allows grocery store liquor sales. Finishing first? North Dakota, which doesn't.

IS THIS THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR PLASTIC DRINKING STRAWS?

By Stacy Brooks

"Do you want a straw with that?" a waitress asked recently as she took my drink order.

It seemed like an odd question. I'm used to be queried about my dressing choice, whether I want the soup or the salad, or if I want a side of fries. But the straw in my Diet Coke was something I took for granted.

The server noticed my confusion. "It's an environmental thing," she explained. "We're trying to ask everyone."

That made sense—I had noticed the links my eco-conscious friends posted on Facebook about asking for beverages without straws and participating in Plastic Free July. What I hadn't realized was that the movement had spread enough to impact policies at a neighborhood bar in small-town Wisconsin.

Americans use 500 million (!) plastic straws per day, and most of us don't give them a second thought. They arrive unannounced in our glasses of ice water, cocktails, and smoothies. We use them to slurp up our beverages, and then they get tossed in the trash. And that's

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just the problem: Environmental activists say single-use items like straws are unnecessarily wasteful at best, and at worst, they can end up in the ocean, where they become a hazard to wildlife.

The movement to eliminate plastic drinking straws has been gaining momentum in the past few years, in part due to the awareness raised by a gruesome viral video of a sea turtle with a straw stuck in its nose. Cities including Miami Beach, Malibu, and Seattle have banned plastic straws. Alaska Airlines is replacing plastic stir straws and citrus picks with sustainable, marine-friendly alternatives. Even McDonald's has announced that it will replace plastic straws with paper ones in all of its United Kingdom and Ireland locations by the end of 2019, with a rollout starting in September.

Efforts are underway in the Twin Cities, too, at large and local business alike. First Avenue announced in March that straws would only be served on request. HopCat, a craft beer bar chain with a downtown Minneapolis location, uses compostable straws. Meyvn, Uptown's new bagel shop/bar/restaurant hybrid from the Saint Dinette team, hasn't had straws from day one.

One of the latest businesses to make the transition is Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises—the Chicago-based restaurant group behind Big Bowl, Wildfire, and Twin City Grill—which will eliminate plastic drinking straws by October 1.

According to president R.J. Melman, the idea to phase out non-biodegradable straws in the company's 120 restaurants originated with his brother and business partner, Jerrod Melman, several months ago.



al Vento

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"At first, our goal was to eliminate the use of straws altogether," Melman tells City Pages, "however, we recognized some people will still require one, so the most difficult part has been identifying viable alternatives and ensuring their availability." These alternatives to traditional plastic include natural and biodegradable straws made with hay, paper, or biodegradable plastic.

Melman notes that there's been excitement internally about the plan, with many restaurants implementing the policy before the October 1 deadline. And he reports that customer reactions have been "amazing" overall.

"We anticipate some people will get upset about it," he says. "But we will have great alternatives for those people. We compare it to non-smoking restaurants where at one time [it] was met with great opposition, but today you don't even think about smoking/non-smoking sections." (Or, in the case of states like Minnesota with an indoor smoking ban, no smoking section at all.)

While corporate and governmental action is crucial to the movement to eliminate plastic straws, diners don't need to wait for official policies. The Plastic Pollution Coalition recommends steps like requesting that your beverage be served without a straw and reaching out to local eateries to encourage them to serve straws only upon request (they even provide handy informational cards to leave with your bill).

And if your waitress asks you if you want a straw in your Diet Coke? Consider just saying, "No thanks."

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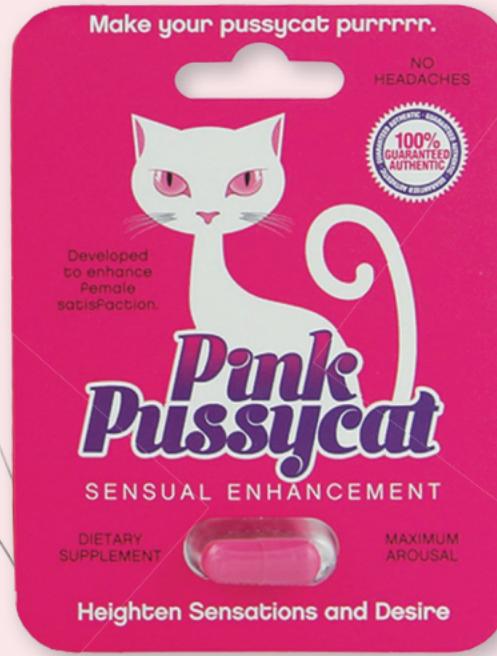
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